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"SENATOR KEATING REPORTS"


A Television and Radio Program

with

Senator Kenneth B. Keating

Sunday, February 3, 1963

Senator Keating:

- *** Sees European split on Common Market, NATO, as "most tragic" development since 1939. (page 2)
- *** Will sponsor bills on sports bribery, air pollution (page 2, 5)
- *** Requesting U.S. Weather Bureau blueprint of New York State station and radar facilities. (page 2, 3)
- *** FEATURE COPY: Keating's hair shirt (page 5)
- *** INTERVIEW with SENATOR JOHN C. STENNIS, Chairman, Preparedness Subcommittee of Armed Services Committee: 
- Asserts American people not told all facts on Cuban buildup. (page 3)
- Reveals U.S. intelligence sees possible Communist invasion of some Latin American countries. (page 4)
- States Cuba "formidable," "undoubtedly stronger" since summer, "rapidly becoming second strongest military power in Western Hemisphere." (page 3, 4)
- Sees need for "hard, firm policy," perhaps U.S. demand for Soviet troop removal. (page 4)
- Will open hearings in about two weeks, probing if missiles and bombers "really gone," also pullout of Turkish, Italian missiles. (page 3, 4)
- Reveals JFK, Rusk, unconsulted on probe. (page 4)
- Dubious on junking Skybolt, terms it "last chance" to retain manned bomber as threat. (page 4)

Over TV Stations:

WTEN-TV, Albany, N.Y.
WBNF-TV, Binghamton, N.Y.
WSYE-TV, Elmira, N.Y.
WHEC-TV, Rochester, N.Y.
WSYR-TV, Syracuse, N.Y.
WKTV, Utica, N.Y.
WCNY-TV, Watertown, N.Y.

Over Radio Stations:

WEBO, Owego, N.Y.
WEAV, Plattsburgh, N.Y.
WBEF, Rochester, N.Y.
WGGO, Salamanca, N.Y.
WTRY, Troy, N.Y.
WOTT, Watertown, N.Y.

Over Radio Stations:

WCSS, Amsterdam, N.Y.
WAUB, Auburn, N.Y.
WBAB, Babylon, N.Y.
WBTA, Batavia, N.Y.
WCLI, Corning, N.Y.
WEHH, Elmira Heights, N.Y.
WWHG, Hornell, N.Y.
WJTN, Jamestown, N.Y.
WVOS, Liberty, N.Y.
WVIP, Mt. Kisco, N.Y.
WVNJ, Newark, N.J.
WJRZ, Newark, N.J.
WGNY, Newburgh, N.Y.
WDL, Oneida, N.Y.
WMCR, Oneida, N.Y.

This is Senator Ken Keating, bringing you news from the Nation's Capital.

SPORTS BRIBERY

An Elmira sports fan writes to ask, "What is Congress doing to stop scandals in the sports world?"

True, organized criminals are moving in on American sports. Gambling on football, basketball and baseball games is earning fantastic profits for underworld characters, who then invest their gains in murder, narcotics and corruption of public officials.

This is primarily a problem for the sports community and state and local organizations, but leaders of organized sports are calling for Federal assistance.

In response to their pleas for help, I have drafted legislation to root out conspiracies which cross state lines and thus escape local authorities.

I plan to introduce my bill early next week, fully expect it to draw strong backing from the Department of Justice, and predict it will become law before this session of Congress adjourns. Congress cannot and must not turn its back on scandals in America's sports.

COMMON MARKET ILLUSION

A Binghamton housewife writes to ask, "Why so much fuss over British membership in the Common Market? Will NATO fall apart if France succeeds in blocking Britain from entering the union?"

Sooner or later Britain must come into the Common Market. Frankly, despite what happened in Brussels last week, I am convinced that the survival of a free Europe depends upon it. The history of the last fifty years clearly reveals that no one European power is capable of guaranteeing the security of a free community of European nations.

It is especially disturbing that France should be taking the lead in this "Go home, John Bull" - "Go home, Uncle Sam" effort. France has provided less support for NATO in Europe than any other member of the alliance. We all know that Soviet missiles can destroy any European-based bombers before they leave the ground. Until these nations have an arsenal of nuclear missiles equal to the Soviets, the United States cannot pull out without leaving the door open for Khrushchev.

The time has come to be frank with our friends: They cannot expect to rake in the economic benefit of the Common Market for themselves while the United States, alone or with Britain, continues to bear the economic burden of its defense.

It is ironic that this major shift in European thinking, this new emphasis on independence from the United States and NATO, has blossomed out of the Cuban crisis. Europe seems suddenly to have lost her fear of the Soviets. Incredibly, some Europeans have deduced from the success of a united NATO stand over Cuba that a divided NATO stand will be good enough for Europe.

If not reversed, this new illusion could be the most tragic step the world has taken since 1939.

NEW YORK WEATHER STATIONS?

A housewife in Watertown writes, "We've had 56 inches of snow here. Can't our scientists do anything to control this?"

Apparently not. The American Meteorological Society held its annual meeting in New York last week. The weather for the event? Freezing temperatures and snow.

Great strides have been made, however, in the field of weather prediction. Our weather satellite sends down much valuable information from outer space. Our jet planes can fly into the very eye of hurricanes to gather data. And our vast network

of weather stations is ever-watchful. The information thus gathered saves many lives and much property by providing ample storm warnings.

I intend to make certain, nevertheless, that the great northern tier of New York does not lack necessary facilities. I am requesting from the U.S. Weather Bureau a complete blueprint of all weather stations and radar facilities in our state, to make very sure that our citizens have adequate warning and protection.

STENNIS INTERVIEW

My guest today is a distinguished Congressional leader, a member of the powerful Space, Appropriations and Armed Services Committees. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Preparedness, he will soon investigate the Cuban buildup. It is a pleasure to present Senator John C. Stennis.

KEATING: Senator Stennis, do you think the American people have been told all of the facts about the build-up in Cuba?

STENNIS: Well, Senator Keating, first I want to assure you of my extreme pleasure in being on this program with you. I think your television program has meant a great deal, not only to people from New York, but to the entire nation.

KEATING: You're very kind and I appreciate it.

STENNIS: Without anyone being accused of wrong-doing in keeping information away, I do not think the people of the United States have been told all the facts. I don't think the Congress has sufficient knowledge of the facts as a whole, although you have contributed greatly. I think we ought to have a hearing so that there will be Congressional information as well as that for the people.

KEATING: Why did you decide to hold these hearings?

STENNIS: I realized that Cuba, through the Russian military building up there, is becoming rapidly the second strongest military power in the Western Hemisphere and I am concerned about it. I don't think we ought to relax about it one minute. We've got to know the facts. We've got to know what the strength is. I want our military men then to pass on whether they think it's the embryo of something larger. We must be on the alert. Already, they're quite a formidable force. I want to know how much air power, how much ground power, and what their influences are in these other countries as well as the threat to us.

KEATING: When will your hearings open?

STENNIS: Well, we haven't set a date yet. That depends upon the rapidity of staff work but, say, two weeks, something like that.

KEATING: What witnesses would you anticipate you would call, other than the military people?

STENNIS: I hope first to have the Secretary of State. And then, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Perhaps a few more of that type. Then I want an appraisal of these forces, once we get them described by our own military, the Chiefs of Staff and experts in their field. I haven't mentioned it to him yet, but I hope that Admiral O'Donnell who is the former Commanding Officer at Guantanamo, and lived there two years, can come in. We really want to get to the heart of this matter--the threat, the menace, the probabilities for the future. When we get the facts, maybe we can make some contribution to the policies that should come from it.

KEATING: Will your hearings be in Executive Session?

STENNIS: Unfortunately, I think most of our hearings will be in Executive Session. We would be compelled to. But, at the same time, I hope that we can get out to the American people the basic facts we develop. Some broad policy will be involved, and I think that the contribution that we make is in that field as well as others.

KEATING: Have you discussed the hearings with the President or Secretary of State?

STENNIS: No, I haven't mentioned it to the President or the Secretary of State, nor anyone for them. This came up at the Congressional level, you might say. We have a distinct responsibility, especially the Armed Services Committee. This is a purely Congressional hearing.

KEATING: As the Chairman of the Preparedness Committee have you had access to the Cuban intelligence in the past year?

STENNIS: Yes, I have.

KEATING: Do you see evidence of communist penetration in other Latin American countries?

STENNIS: Yes, I certainly have. One of the great menaces of this Russian build-up in Cuba is for these very purposes of blackmail, subversion, intimidation, threats of coercion, and even an invasion of these smaller countries of the Western Hemisphere. Perhaps our time will come a little later, not first but last.

KEATING: Without going into detail, is it your estimate that Cuba is stronger militarily than she was last summer?

STENNIS: Oh, undoubtedly. The Russian build-up started along in July, the main build-up. I think the Cuban army is considerably stronger and I think with the added military capacity the Russians have put in there, the potential of it is tremendous.

We want to find out how much of that has grown since the October call-up, and of course, we are going to try to find out if those missiles are really gone, and the bombers. Our military men generally seem to think so but we will try to shed additional light on it.

I don't want to emphasize the Bay of Pigs invasion. I think that's spilled milk. There are no laurels for anyone in it, but I think we confuse the issue if we emphasize the old invasion of nearly two years ago. Our problem is the present and the future.

KEATING: What do you think we ought to do about continued Soviet troop presence in Cuba?

STENNIS: Well, of course, that's the big question. I want to get all the facts, but with this formidable strength, I think that we must have a hard, firm policy about it--convince them we are going to be hard about it. It could lead to the proposition that we'd have to make demands for this force as we did for the missiles and the bombers.

KEATING: You're an important member of the Armed Services Committee. Do you agree with the decision on the Skybolt missile?

STENNIS: I certainly have not yet been convinced. I have been among those who urged higher appropriations for the last two years for the Skybolt in order to keep the manned bomber in action--the B-52's particularly--and I'm not convinced although I am waiting to see what Mr. McNamara has to say. I think the manned bomber will be needed a long time and the Skybolt is the last chance to keep it as a formidable weapon.

KEATING: Do you agree with the withdrawal of our missiles from Turkey and Italy?

STENNIS: Perhaps they are obsolete. I am not suggesting any connection between them and the Cuban matter, I think probably not, but we will cover that.

KEATING: You plan to cover that in the hearings?

STENNIS: Yes, but not primarily. It's an incidental matter. I think probably that the Polaris submarine is a valid substitution for the missiles in Italy and Turkey.

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I think we will cover that in the hearings.

Now back to the mail.

AIR POLLUTION

An amusing article in the current New Yorker begins: "Today I saw a piece of pollution."

We may chuckle over that for a moment, but no city dweller in New York considers the problem the least bit funny. Industrial and automobile soot is blanketing our cities with an ominous smog and thousands of microscopic particles of just plain dirt.

The State Department of Health is working overtime to control air pollution, but no state can cope with it alone. Winds carry undesirable matter across state lines and smog is no respecter of legal boundaries. We need a Federal program to conduct research and coordinate state efforts.

I am sponsoring a bill authorizing the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to make grants to local agencies, call public conferences and encourage interstate cooperation on air pollution. I am happy to say that it has the strong backing of the Conference of Mayors and the American Municipal Association.

SENATORIAL HAIR SHIRT

A little girl from Staten Island writes to say that her history book has some beautiful pictures of ancient Roman Senators dressed in togas. "Why can't our Senators wear togas?" she asks.

This is not the first attempt to improve our appearance. Some Senate activities, they say, call for cloaks and daggers. Others suggest a strait jacket. This vote for a toga comes as a welcome relief, since my own garb too often seems to be a hair shirt!

This is Senator Ken Keating.